

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are amended. Claims 8-17 are new. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

#### **Claim Objections**

Claims 1-7 are objected to because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1-7 to address this objection according to the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject-matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claims 4 and 7 to overcome this rejection. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Ramsden et al. (EP 1006 751 A2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that Ramsden fails to anticipate "determining, by a receiving-end equipment, whether there is congestion at a VC-Trunk of the receiving-end equipment, if there is congestion at the VC-Trunk, sending a flow control packet with a VC-Trunk tag of the VC-Trunk to a transmission-end equipment; pausing, by the

transmission-end equipment, service transmission of the VC-Trunk according to the VC-Trunk tag in the flow control packet" of claim 1.

Ramsden at best discloses in para. [0030], lines 50-52 that "buffer monitor 416 monitors frame receipt buffer 414 via control line 418. Upon detecting excessive receipt of SDH Ethernet based data packet frames in buffer 414, buffer monitor 416 may transmit a signal along control line 419 to pause frame store 420 whereafter pause frame store 420 is configured to issue a pause frame along control line 421 to the communications link configured between frame transmission buffer 411 and frame stuffing means 412". In other words, the buffer 414 stores all the Ethernet data frames received from the SDH communication link 102. It is well known that the SDH communication link 102 may include a plurality of Virtual Containers. Ramsden does not take into consideration the flow control of an individual Virtual Container.

Para [0032], lines 40-41 of Ramsden at best discloses "the buffer 416 waits until the end of frame flag for the data frame currently being transmitted is detected". Applicant respectfully submits that the frame flag of Ramsden is substantially different from the VC-Trunk tag of claim 1. Specifically, the frame flag of Ramsden is a marker or frame delimiter of the data frame. By detecting the end of the data frame currently transmitted by buffer B (buffer 414), the buffer monitor 416 of Ramsden can issue a signal to the pause frame store 420 so as to transmit a pause frame to the local Ethernet switch subsequent to the data frame. In claim 1, the VC-Trunk tag is used for identifying the VC-Trunk which has congestion.

Systems embodying the claimed invention can control each VC-Trunk data flow individually without affecting other VC-Trunks.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 define over the art cited by the Examiner.

#### **NEW CLAIMS**

New independent claims 8, 13, and 15 are apparatus claims corresponding to the method claim 1. Applicant submits claims 8, 13, and 15 and their dependent claims 9-12, 14, and 16-17 respectively define over the art cited by the Examiner for one or more of the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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